(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Newsprint Advisory Committee has held its meeting to discuss this problem;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the steps taken to bring any changes in the said policy ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The Indian Newsprint Manufacturers Association have informed vide their letter dated 12.7.96 that they have sent representations to the Ministries of Commerce, Finance and Industry regarding the sluggish marketing conditions prevailing in the country due to heavy import of newsprint leading to accumulation of stocks with the indigenous mills.

(c) to (f) No meeting of the Newsprint Advisory Committee has been held to discuss this problem. The Newsprint Advisory Committee whose term expired in August 1995 has not been re-constituted as the Government's control over import of newsprint has been lifted consequent upon placing import of newsprint under O.G.L. with effect from 1.5.1995 vide Ministry of Commerce's Notification No. 3 (RE-95)/92-97 dated 30.4.1995.

[Translation]

Illegal Mining in Madhya Pradesh

5548. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that illegal mining is taking place in the forests in Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check this illegal mining ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Hindi/English Magazines

5549. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government departments in Delhi are publishing magazines in Hindi and English;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of editorial staff there, at present;

(c) the number of Government magazines where equal number of staff and facilities have been provided for both the editions;

(d) the number of magazines not having equal number of staff and same facilities for their English and Hindi editions; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to provide equal number of staff and facilities to both editions ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Computerisation of Post Offices

5550. SHRI D.P. YADAV :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to computerise the Post Offices to accelerate the pace of work;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise, district-wise,

(c) the cities, where post offices have already been computerised, State-wise, District-wise;

(d) whether some employees have been retrenched as a result thereof; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, A Scheme to speed up counter transactions with the help of computer based counter machines is being implemented under the Eighth Five Year Plan. Till date 2426 No. of computer based counter machines have been installed in different Post Offices all over the country as per details given in the Statement-I. Money Order Service has also been speeded up with the installation of network of Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT). 69 VSATs have been installed as per the district-wise/city-wise list given in the Statement-II.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise, in view of reply at (d).